

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371Attorney's Docket Number: 04208.0113
Customer No.: 22,852

U.S. APPLICATION NO.

097/889007

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/JP00/07761

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

November 2, 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

November 8, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

CARD CONNECTOR

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

1) Kiyoshi ABE and 2) Eiji MATSUDA

Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154 (d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 & 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A Substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154 (d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application 35 U.S.C. 154 (d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information:
 - a. ☒ Copy of cover page of International Publication No. WO 01/35332.
 - b. ☐ Copy of Notification of Missing Requirements.
 - c. ☒ Verification of Translation.

21. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$1000.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$860.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO **\$710.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$690.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33 (1)-(4) **\$100.00**

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$860.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).

☐ 20 ☐ 30

\$

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total Claims	4	- 20 =	0	x \$18.00
Independent Claims	1	- 3 =	0	x \$80.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	

\$

TOTAL OF THE ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$860.00

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.

\$

SUBTOTAL =

\$860.00

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than
months from the earliest priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

☐ 20 ☐ 30

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$860.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21 (h)). The assignment must be accompanied by
an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property.

\$

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$860.00

Amount to be
refunded:

\$

charged:

\$

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 860.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 06-0916. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information
should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b))
must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3315
EFC/FPD/sci
DATED: July 6, 2001

SIGNATURE

Ernest F. Chapman/25961

NAME/REGISTRATION NO.

SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Card Connector

5

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a card connector for connecting an IC card to an electronic device, such as a cellular phone, a telephone, a PDA (personal digital assistant), a portable audio device and a camera etc., and more specifically to a structure of various switches installed in the connector.

BACKGROUND ART

In electronic devices such as cellular phones, telephones, PDAs and digital cameras, a variety of functions are added by inserting an IC card with a built-in memory or control ICs, such as a SIM (subscriber identity module), an MMC (multimedia card), a Smart Media (tradename) and an SD (super density or secure digital) card.

In a connector structure for removably accommodating such an IC card, a plurality of contact terminals made from a metal leaf spring are provided in a connector housing to make contact with a plurality of contact pads formed on the front or back surface of the inserted IC card to electrically connect the IC card to the electronic device mounting

that connector. The contact pads of the IC card include a power supply pad connected to a power supply line and a plurality of signal pads for transferring various signals. These contact pads are connected via
5 the contact terminals of the card connector to a power supply circuit and various signal processing circuits in the electronic device.

The IC card of this kind normally employs some means for prohibiting writing operations in order to
10 protect information stored in its internal memory. One such means is a write protect button that can slide between two positions, as in a floppy disk. In such a slide button system, the card is provided with a write protect button that can slide between two positions
15 and which, when it is situated at one position, sets the card to a write-disable state and, when it is slid to the other position, sets it to a write-enable state. On the connector side, a detector needs to be provided that detects the slide positions of the write protect
20 button.

Further, in addition to the slide position signal of the write protect button, the electronic device often calls for a signal indicating whether the card is inserted or not. Hence, the connector should also
25 be provided with a detector for checking the card insertion.

As a sensor structure for detecting a variety of

these states, a light-based sensor structure may be conceived. The light-based sensor structure, however, has drawbacks that a sufficient detection precision cannot be expected as the card becomes thinner and smaller and that the installation of a light sensor can be a hindrance to reductions in size and cost. Hence, a sensor structure utilizing engagement and disengagement of a contact leaf spring is considered the most promising structure overall.

10 When these detectors are to be constructed of contact leaf springs, because each detector requires a pair of contact leaf springs, the total number of contact leaf springs and contact leaf spring support structures required in the connector as a whole is two
15 times the number of detectors.

Such a construction therefore has a large number of parts making up the detectors and requires a large space to accommodate these parts, which is detrimental to reducing the weight, thickness and size of the
20 connector structure.

The present invention has been accomplished under these circumstances. It is an object of the present invention to solve the above-described problems by providing a card connector which can construct one or
25 more switches in the connector with a reduced number of parts and accommodate these switches in a smaller space efficiently.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention, a card connector is provided, which comprises: a

5 connector housing having a lower housing and a metal upper housing; contact terminals arranged to engage external contacts of a card inserted into the connector housing; and one or more switches each operated by an engagement and disengagement of a pair

10 of metal pieces; wherein one of the each pair of metal pieces making up each of the switches is formed in the metal upper housing.

In this invention, one of each pair of metal pieces making up each of the switches is formed in the

15 metal cover body made from a worked metal sheet. This construction can reduce the number of parts of the switches and also the space of the connector.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Fig. 1 is a plan view showing an example of an IC card for insertion into a card connector of this invention.

Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view showing an outline construction of one embodiment of the card

25 connector according to the invention.

Fig. 3 is an exploded perspective view showing an outline construction of the embodiment of the card

connector according to the invention.

Fig. 4 is an exploded perspective view showing an outline construction of the embodiment of the card connector according to the invention.

5 Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view showing an embodiment of a switch structure on a write protect switch side.

Fig. 6A and Fig. 6B are schematic diagrams showing the operation of the write protect switch.

10 Fig. 7 is an enlarged perspective view showing an embodiment of a switch structure on a card recognition switch side.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

15 Now, embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing an example of an IC card to be inserted into the card connector of this
20 invention.

The IC card 1 has a recess 2 formed in its side surface in which a write protect button 3 can be slid in the card insertion/retraction direction (direction of arrow A). In this case, the write protect button 3
25 can assume either of two positions, a protect-off (write-enable) position indicated by a solid line and a protect-on (write-disable) position indicated by a

dashed line, and can be slid between these two positions. That is, the card 1 is write-enabled when the write protect button 3 is set to a rear part 2b of the recess 2 and write-disabled when the bottom 3 is set to a front part 2a of the recess 2. Though not shown in Fig. 1, the back surface of the card 1 is formed with a plurality of contact pads, including power supply pads and signal pads, which come into contact with the contact terminals on the connector side.

Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 show the outline structure of the connector 10 that receives the IC card 1. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the connector 10 as viewed diagonally from behind. The connector 10 is secured to an appropriate location on an electronic device, such as a cellular phone, a telephone, a PDA, a portable audio device and a camera.

In Fig. 2 to Fig. 4, the connector 10 has a lower housing 20 and an upper housing (upper cover body) 30. The lower housing 20 is made from an insulating material such as resin. The upper housing 30 is made from a worked metal sheet and functions as a cover body covering the lower housing 20. The reason why the upper housing 30 is made from a metal sheet, not resin, is that the metal has a greater strength than the resin and thus can reduce the height of the connector.

The connector 10 has a card insertion opening 11 at the front through which the card 1 is inserted. Both inner side surfaces of the lower housing 20 are formed with guide rails 12 that guide the card 1 as it is inserted or retracted.

A base plate of the lower housing 20 is formed with a plurality of grooves 13 in which a plurality of contact terminals 40 made from cantilevered contact leaf springs are positioned and press-fitted under pressure, respectively. The contact terminals 40 are used as power supply terminals and signal terminals. The contact terminals 40 each have at their front ends a contact portion 40a projecting in an arc and adapted to contact associated one of the plurality of contact pads formed on the card 1. Terminal portions 40b of the contact terminals 40 are soldered to contact pads of a printed circuit board of the electronic device.

A metal contact leaf spring 50 forming one of contacts of a write protect switch SW1 and a metal contact leaf spring 60 forming one of contacts of a card recognition switch SW2 are secured to the lower housing 20 by means of a press fit or a pin.

The metal upper housing 30 has a pair of leaf springs 35a, 35b facing the guide rails 12 to firmly hold the inserted card 1.

One bent side plate 30a of the metal upper housing 30 is formed with a metal leaf spring 70 that

constitutes the other contact of the write protect switch SW1.

On the other hand, a top plate 30b of the upper housing 30 has a metal leaf spring 80 formed on the rear end side thereof which constitutes the other contact of the card recognition switch SW2.

First, the write protect switch SW1 made up of the contact leaf spring 50 secured to the lower housing 20 and the contact leaf spring 70 formed in the metal upper housing 30 will be explained by referring to Figs. 5, 6A and 6B also. The write protect switch SW1 detects the slide position of the write protect button 3 of the inserted card 1.

The contact leaf spring 50 secured to the lower housing 20 is made from a metal piece which comprises a terminal portion 51 secured to the contact pad of the printed circuit board, a stationary portion 52 secured to the lower housing 20, a leaf spring portion 53 extending along the card side surface, and a front engagement portion 54 projecting in an arc. With the stationary portion 52 rigidly fixed, the contact leaf spring 50 is supported like a cantilevered beam. The front engagement portion 54, as shown in Figs. 6A and 6B, has an engagement portion 54a and a front contact portion 54b at the front end of the engagement portion 54a. The engagement portion 54a engages with the front part 2a of the recess 2 formed in the card 1 or the

write protect button 3 slid to the front part 2a when
the card 1 is inserted. The contact leaf spring 50 has
its leaf spring portion 53 urged so that when the card
1 is inserted, the engagement portion 54a is pressed
5 against the bottom surface of the front part 2a of the
recess 2 of the card 1.

The contact leaf spring 70 extending from the
side plate 30a of the metal upper housing 30 is made
from a metal piece which has a leaf spring portion 73
10 and a front engagement portion 74 projecting in an arc.
The contact leaf spring 70 also has a contact
projection 75 in the leaf spring portion 73 that
contacts the front contact portion 54b of the contact
leaf spring 50. As shown in Fig. 6A and Fig. 6B, the
15 front engagement portion 74 engages with the rear part
2b of the recess 2 of the card 1 or the write protect
button 3 slid to the rear part 2b when the card 1 is
inserted. The contact leaf spring 70 has its leaf
spring portion 73 urged so that when the card 1 is
20 inserted, the front engagement portion 74 is pressed
against the bottom surface of the rear part 2b of the
recess 2 of the card 1.

In the switch SW1 described above, the metal
upper housing 30 is electrically connected to the
25 ground of the printed circuit board. The terminal
portion 51 of the contact leaf spring 50 secured to
the lower housing 20 is applied an appropriate voltage.

In this switch SW1, when the write protect button 3 of the inserted card 1 is set at the write-enable position, as shown in Fig. 6A, the engagement portion 54a of the contact leaf spring 50 engages with the bottom surface of the front part 2a of the recess 2 of the card 1 and the front engagement portion 74 of the contact leaf spring 70 engages with the write protect button 3 of the card 1. At this time, the two contact leaf springs 50, 70 are separated from each other in any part and the write protect switch SW1 is off.

When on the other hand the write protect button 3 is set at the write-disable position, as shown in Fig. 6B, the engagement portion 54a of the contact leaf spring 50 engages with the bottom 3 situated at the front part 2a of the recess 2 of the card 1 and the front engagement portion 74 of the contact leaf spring 70 engages with the bottom surface of the rear part 2b of the recess 2 of the card 1. At this time, the two contact leaf springs 50, 70 are in contact with each other through the front contact portion 54b and the contact projection 75 and the write protect switch SW1 is on.

In the write protect switch SW1 made up of the two contact leaf springs 50, 70, these contact leaf springs 50, 70 are brought into or out of contact with each other according to the position of the write protect button 3. Thus, electrically detecting the

engagement or disengagement between the contact leaf springs 50, 70 can determine at which of the write-disable/write-enable positions the write protect button 3 of the IC card 1 is situated.

5 In this structure of the switch SW1, at whichever of the two slide positions the write protect button 3 is situated, the engagement portion of one contact leaf spring engages with the write protect button 3 and the engagement portion of the other contact leaf spring engages with a part of the recess 2 adjacent to the write protect button. Hence, if there is a play due to differences between the width of the card accommodating portion of the connector 10 and the width of the card 1, or parts tolerances or assembly tolerances, the shift in the position of the write protect button 3 can always cause the contact leaf springs 50, 70 to be displaced by a distance equal to the height of the write protect button 3.

10 In this structure of the switch SW1, because the write protect button 3 and the part of the recess 2 adjacent to the bottom 3 are used to bring the contact leaf springs 50, 70 into or out of contact with each other, the directions of displacements of the contact leaf springs 50, 70 are opposite. For example, when the state changes from the one shown in Fig. 6A where the contact leaf springs 50, 70 are separated to the one shown in Fig. 6B where the contact leaf springs 50,

70 abut each other, the contact leaf springs 50, 70 move toward each other until they engage. The shift from the state of Fig. 6B to the state of Fig. 6A is reverse to the process above and the contact leaf
5 springs 50, 70 move away from each other until they are parted.

As described above, because the structure of the switch SW1 can engage or disengage the two contact leaf springs 50, 70 through their relative
10 displacement equal to two times the height of the write protect button 3, this switch structure is effectively applied to a small card which cannot keep a sufficient height for the write protect button.

Next, the card recognition switch SW2 made up of
15 the contact leaf spring 60 secured to the lower housing 20 and the contact leaf spring 80 formed in the metal upper housing 30 will be described by referring also to Fig. 7. The card recognition switch SW2 detects whether or not the card 1 is fully
20 inserted into the connector 10.

The contact leaf spring 60 secured to the lower housing 20 comprises a terminal portion 61 fixedly connected to the contact pad of the printed circuit board, a grip portion 62 for gripping the top and
25 bottom portions of the lower housing 20 to securely hold the contact leaf spring 60, a folded leaf spring portion 63, an engagement portion 64 protruding to

engage with the front end face of the inserted card 1, and a folded contact portion 65 projecting upward from the leaf spring portion 63.

On the other hand, the contact leaf spring 80
5 formed at the rear end portion of the upper housing 30 is made from a metal piece having a leaf spring portion 83 and a front end contact portion 85.

In this switch SW2, the metal upper housing 30 is electrically connected to the ground of the printed
10 circuit board, as described earlier. The terminal portion 61 of the contact leaf spring 60 secured to the lower housing 20 is applied an appropriate voltage.

In this card recognition switch SW2 made up of these two contact leaf springs 60, 80, when the card 1
15 is not inserted, the contact leaf springs 60, 80 have their contact portions 65, 85 separated, leaving the card recognition switch SW2 turned off.

When the card 1 is fully inserted into the connector 10, the engagement portion 64 of the contact
20 leaf spring 60 is pushed by the front end face of the card 1, displacing the contact portion 65 rearwardly. As a result, the contact portion 65 of the contact leaf spring 60 and the front end contact portion 85 of the contact leaf spring 80 engage with each other,
25 turning on the card recognition switch SW2.

In this embodiment, because the metal upper housing 30 as the upper cover of the connector housing

is formed with one of paired metal pieces forming the write protect switch SW1 and with one of paired metal pieces forming the card recognition switch SW2, it is possible to reduce the number of parts of the switches and simplify the structure for holding the metal pieces, which in turn lead to reduced cost and space.

In the above embodiment, while the button position indicated by a solid line in Fig. 1 corresponds to the write-enable position and the position indicated by a dashed line corresponds to the write-disable position, the positional relation may be reversed, i.e., the button position indicated by the solid line in Fig. 1 may correspond to the write-disable position and the position indicated by the dashed line may correspond to the write-enable position.

In the above embodiment, although the contact leaf spring 60 is of a folded type, it may use the same type of leaf spring as other contact leaf springs 50, 70. Further, the leaf springs 50-80 may have any other desired shape as long as various states, such as the protect button position and the presence or absence of an inserted card, are detected by utilizing the elastic engagement or disengagement between these leaf springs.

Although the above embodiment uses two switches in detecting the protect button position and the

presence or absence of an inserted card, if additional switches are necessary to detect other states, one of the paired metal pieces making up each of the additional switches need only be formed in the metal upper housing 30.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As described above, because in this invention the metal upper housing as the upper cover of the connector housing is formed with one of the paired contact pieces making up each of one or more switches, it is possible to reduce the number of parts of the switches and simplify the structure for holding the contact pieces, leading to reduced cost and space.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A card connector comprising:
a connector housing having a lower housing and a
5 metal upper housing;
contact terminals arranged to engage with contact
pads of an inserted card; and
one or more switches each operated by engagement
and disengagement of a pair of metal pieces;
10 wherein one of the each pair of metal pieces
making up each of said switches is formed in said
metal upper housing.
2. A card connector according to claim 1, wherein
15 said one of each pair of metal pieces is a contact
leaf spring extending from an end portion of said
upper housing like a cantilevered beam.
3. A card connector according to claim 1, wherein
20 said switch is a card recognition switch to detect the
presence or absence of the inserted card.
4. A card connector according to claim 1, wherein
said card has a slidable write protect button at its
25 side surface and said switch detects a slide position
of the write protect button.

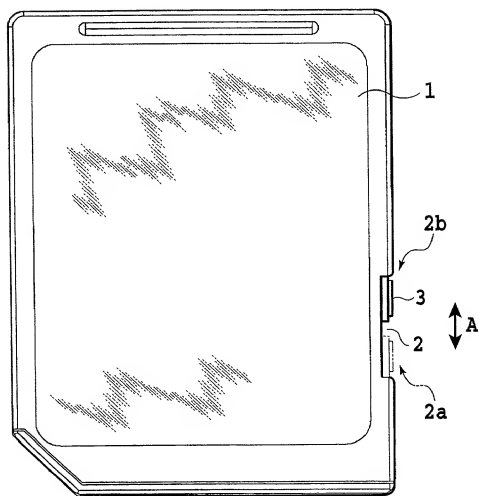


FIG.1

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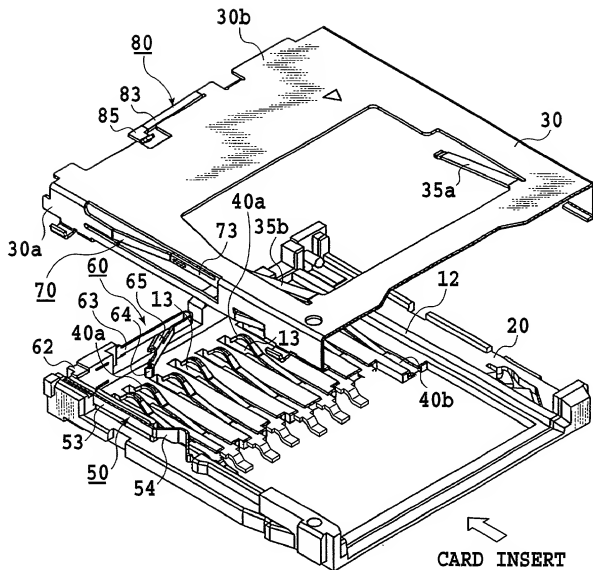


FIG.2

3/7

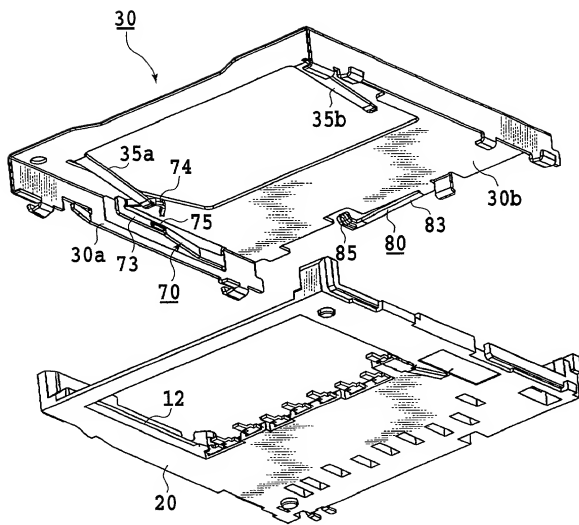
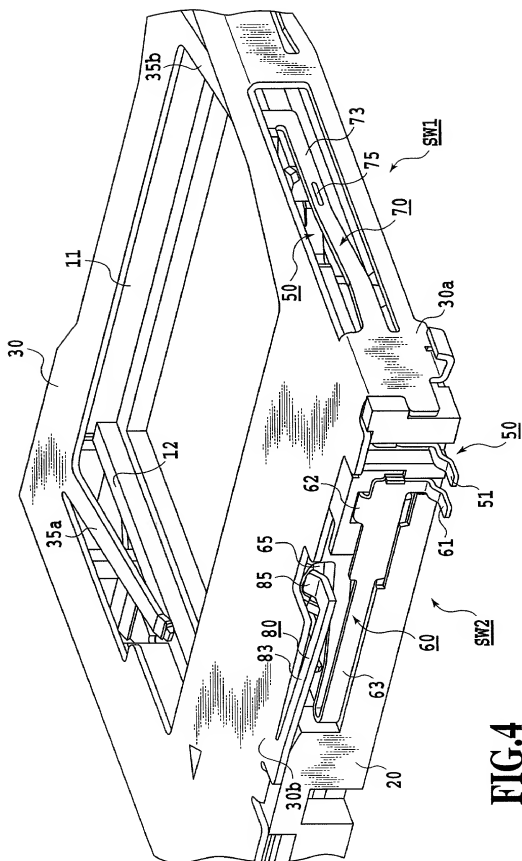
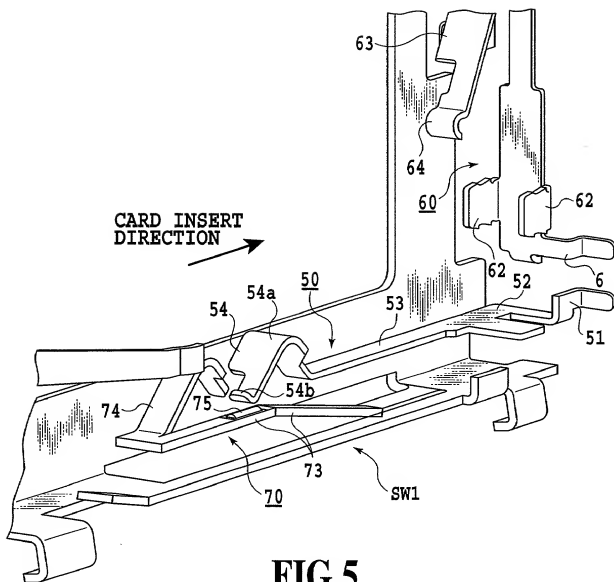


FIG.3



5/7



6/7

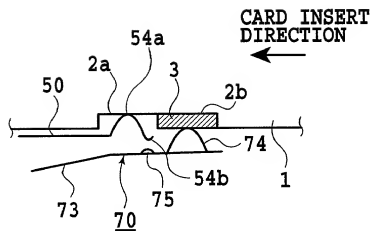


FIG. 6A

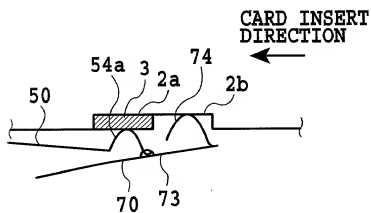
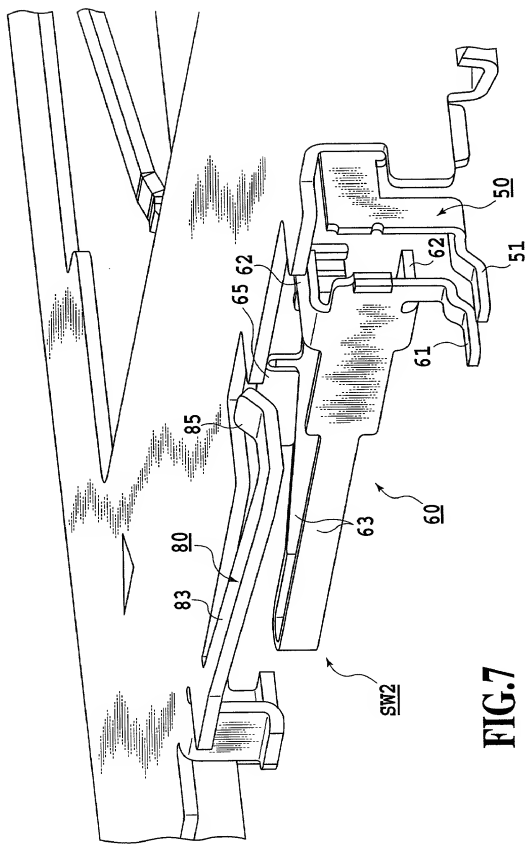


FIG. 6B

09/889007-102001



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: CARD CONNECTOR

the specification of which is attached and/or was filed on July 6, 2001 as United States Application Serial No. 09/889,007 or PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/07761 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 385(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or § 365(a) of any PCT International application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT International application(s) having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing	Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. 119
Japan	317,508/1999	November 8, 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Number	Date of Filing

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT International application(s) designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

Application Number	Date of Filing	Status (Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
PCT/JP00/07761	November 2, 2000	Pending

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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